

Message Text

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50/20

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 USIE-00 DODE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 RSR-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08

CEA-02 PM-07 NSCE-00 /152 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4933

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

PASS SECRETARY BUTZ AND SECRETARY DENT.

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO U. S. SOYBEAN EMBARGO

1. ALL JAPANESE DAILIES CARRIED ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS JUNE 28 AND 29 ON U. S. SOYBEAN EMBARGO AND ITS EFFECTS. MOST EXTREME REACTION WAS ASAHI COMMENTARY TO EFFECT THAT U. S. ACTION INDICATED AN ISOLATIONIST TREND, AND THAT IF U. S. EVER STOPPED EXPORTS OF FARM PRODUCTS TO JAPAN, ONE QUARTER OF JAPANESE PEOPLE WOULD STARVE, AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS WOULD NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO MOST JAPANESE.

2. OTHER EDITORIALS WERE MORE MODERATE, BUT STILL CRITICAL OF U. S. ACTION. SANKEI CALLED ON U. S. TO RETRACT ACTION OR AT LEAST DECIDE NOT TO APPLY STEP TO EXPORT CONTRACTS ALREADY CONCLUDED. NIHON KEIZAI CALLED ACTION REGRETTABLE, PARTICULARLY IN THAT IT APPLIED TO FIRM EXPORT CONTRACTS, AND ARGUED THAT U. S. SHOULD GIVE GREATEST POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION TO JAPAN IN DETERMINATION OF EXPORT

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QUOTAS. NIHON KEIZAI ALSO CALLED ON GOJ TO TAKE PROMPT MEASURES TO PREVENT SPREAD OF FEELING OF UNREST WHICH RESULTED FROM U. S. EMBARGO.

3. PRESS REPORTS ON EMBARGO GENERALLY NOTED INCREASING FEELING THAT JAPAN SHOULD ADOPT MORE SELF- SUFFICIENT POLICY IN AGRICULTURE. ALSO REPORTED WIDE SPREAD FEAR THAT PRICES OF SOYBEANS WOULD RISE SHARPLY IN JAPAN DUE TO SPECULATIVE PRESSURES. MANY ARTICLES EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EMBARGO WOULD BE WIDENED TO INCLUDE CORN. OTHERS REPORTED BITTERNESS ON PART OF TRADING COMPANIES AND FOOD INDUSTRY. EDIBLE OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES REPORTDLY SAID THAT SOME PARTS OF INDUSTRY MAY HAVE TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS ENTIRELY.

4. AMBASSADOR' S COMMENTS TO FONMIN OHIRA ON JUNE 28 WERE GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE IN PRESS. ARTICLES PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHTED THE AMBASSADOR' S STATEMENTS THAT EXPORT EMBARGO IS ONLY FOR SHORT PERIOD, THAT ACTION TAKEN SO AS TO ENABLE U. S. TO CONTINUE STABLE SUPPLY TO TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS SUCH AS JAPAN, AND THAT FULL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO JAPAN IN ALLOCATION OF SOYBEAN EXPORTS.
INGERSOLL

NOTE BY OC/ T: NSCE INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO08247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730632/aaaajskt.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AGRE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Oct-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980304
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO U. S. SOYBEAN EMBARGO
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
To: AGR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005